AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

1 to 3 (Canceled).

4 (Currently Amended). An implant to reshape a heart valve having ~~an~~ a heart valve annulus and leaflet commissures positioned on opposite sides of the heart valve annulus, defining between the leaflet commissures a major axis of the heart valve annulus, comprising

[a] an elastic wire-form body sized and configured to ~~rest in net compression near or within a~~ extend between the leaflet commissures at or above the heart valve annulus, the elastic wire-form body having a spring constant capable of being elastically compressed out of a normal unloaded condition into an elastically loaded compressed condition, and

spaced-apart struts appended to the body to contact tissue at or near the leaflet commissures when the elastic wire-form body extends in its elastically compressed condition between the leaflet commissures, the struts being sized and configured to displace and stretch tissue along the major axis as a result of ~~the~~ net compression of the elastic wire-form body extending at or above the heart valve annulus to reshape the heart valve annulus.

5 and 6 (Canceled)

7 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~ wherein the elastic wire-form body comprises an annular shape.

8 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~ wherein the elastic wire-form body comprises a closed annular shape.

9 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body comprises an open annular shape.

10 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~ wherein the elastic wire-form body comprises at least one rail.

11 (Canceled).

12 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~ wherein the elastic wire-form body is collapsible for placement within a catheter.

13 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body includes at least one cusp sized and configured to permit folding of the body without permanent deformation.

14 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body carries a tissue in-growth material.

15 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

further including at least one structure appended to the elastic wire-form body and being sized and configured to contact tissue at, above, or below the heart valve annulus to stabilize the elastic wire-form body.

16 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body is sized and configured to extend close to the annulus.

17 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body is sized and configured to extend above the annulus.

18 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body is sized and configured to contact tissue above the annulus.

19 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body is sized and configured to include one portion that extends close to the annulus and another portion that extends above the annulus.

20 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body is sized and configured to include one portion that extends close to the annulus and another portion that contacts tissue above the annulus.

21 (Canceled).

22 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body comprises a plastically deformable material.

23 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein the elastic wire-form body comprises a superelastic material.

24 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

and further including a retaining element appended to the elastic wire-form body and extending over at least a portion of a native heart valve leaflet, the restraining element being shaped to restrain retrograde movement of the heart valve leaflet.

25 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

and further including a neoleaflet element appended to the elastic wire-form body and occupying the space of at least one native heart valve leaflet, the neoleaflet element being shaped to provide a one-way valve function.

26 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

and further including a second heart valve treatment element appended to the elastic wire-form body to affect a heart valve function.

27 (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim 26

wherein the second heart valve treatment element includes means for supplementing, repairing, or replacing a native heart valve leaflet.

28 (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim 26

wherein the second heart valve treatment element includes means for retaining a native heart valve leaflet.

29 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein at least one of the struts comprises a wire-form structure.

30 (Currently Amended). An implant according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein ~~the body and~~ the struts each comprises a wire-form structure.

31 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein at least one of the struts is collapsible onto the elastic wire-form body.

32 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein at least one of the struts carries a tissue in-growth material.

33 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). An implant according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4 ~~or 5 or 6~~

wherein at least one of the struts carries a structure sized and configured to increase a surface area of contact with tissue at, above, or below the annulus.

34 (Currently Amended). A method for reshaping a heart valve having a heart valve annulus and leaflet commissures positioned on opposite sides of the heart valve annulus, defining

between the leaflet commissures a major axis of the heart valve annulus, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~

providing an implant comprising an elastic wire-form body sized and configured to extend between the leaflet commissures at or above the heart valve annulus, the elastic wire-form body having a spring constant capable of being elastically compressed out of a normal unloaded condition into an elastically loaded compressed condition, and spaced-apart struts appended to the body to contact tissue at or near the leaflet commissures,

introducing ~~an~~ the implant ~~as defined in claim 1 or 2 or 3 or 4~~ into a heart, and

placing the struts into contact with tissue at or near the leaflet commisures to place the elastic wire-form body between the leaflet commissures in the elastically compressed condition in extension at or above the heart valve annulus to ~~displacing~~ displace and stretch tissue along the major axis to reshape the heart valve annulus ~~by locating the body of the implant as defined in claim 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 near or within a heart valve annulus~~.

35 (Original). A method according to claim 34

wherein the introducing step comprises using an open heart surgical procedure.

36 (Original). A method according to claim 34

wherein the introducing step comprises using a surgical procedure in which the implant is carried within a catheter.

37 (Original). A method according to claim 34

wherein the introducing step comprises using an intravascular surgical procedure.

38 (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn). A method according to claim 34

~~wherein the displacing tissue step comprises~~ further including tethering the ~~body of the~~ implant ~~as defined in claim 1 or 2 or 3 or 4~~ to at least one wire while ~~locating~~ placing the struts into contact with tissue at or near the leaflet commissures ~~body near or within a heart valve annulus~~.

39 to 44 (Canceled)